

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.765
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2018**

SCHEMES TO PROMOTE CULTURAL TOURISM

765. SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism to facilitate interaction and cooperation between Government departments/schemes to promote wellness, spiritual and cultural tourism across the Country;**
- (b) if so the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has any intention to incorporate the mechanism into Swadesh Darshan Scheme; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI K.J. ALPHONS)**

(a) and (b):The Ministry of Tourism has constituted the National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) which facilitates interaction on various matters relating to tourism including the promotion of wellness, spiritual and cultural tourism across the country, and consists of members representing various Ministries of Government of India, Experts & Travel and Tourism Industry Associations.

In addition, Ministry of Tourism interacts with various Government departments, State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, stakeholders etc. from time to time to take suggestions/inputs on case to case basis which are held at Regional and National levels on matters related to development of tourism.

Further, a National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board chaired by Union Tourism Minister and consisting of members representing the related Government Departments, Experts in the field of tourism, medical, wellness & yoga has also been constituted to provide a dedicated institutional framework to take forward the cause of promotion of Medical and Wellness Tourism across the country.

(c) and (d): A National Steering Committee (NSC) headed by Union Tourism Minister comprising of members of various Central Ministries reviews, overseas operations, steers & monitors the overall performance of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Further, the Mission Directorate comprising of representatives of the States/UTs, concerned Ministries & stakeholders from the travel trade & hospitality industry also interacts to monitor and review the projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

In addition, the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme for development of pilgrimage sites of the country with similar mechanism for interaction and cooperation between Government departments has also been launched by the Ministry.
